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the mutant comprising an amino acid substitution in an N-terminal alpha helix, in a domain B beta strand comprising residues 41 through 47 of SPE-A, at a cysteine, or a combination of such substitutions, *wherein?* wherein the mutant [has at least one amino acid change and] is substantially nonlethal compared with a protein substantially corresponding to wild type SPE-A toxin.

3. (Amended) [A] The mutant SPE-A toxin [according to] of claim 1, wherein the mutant SPE-A toxin comprises one to six amino acid substitutions; and wherein at least one of the substituted amino acids is asparagine-20, leucine-41, leucine-42, aspartic acid 45, lysine-157, or cysteine-98.

4. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 3, wherein the at least one amino acid substitution comprises the substitution of asparagine-20 to aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine or arginine; the substitution of leucine-41 to alanine; the substitution of leucine-42 to alanine; the substitution of cysteine 98 to serine, alanine, glycine, or threonine; the substitution of lysine-157 to glutamic acid or aspartic acid; or the substitution of aspartic acid-45 to asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, or alanine.

5. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 4, wherein the at least one amino acid substitution comprises asparagine-20 to aspartic acid, leucine-41 to alanine, leucine-42 to alanine, cysteine 98 to serine, aspartic acid-45 to asparagine, or lysine-157 to glutamic acid.

6. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 3, wherein the at least one amino acid substitution comprises substitution of asparagine-20, of cysteine 98, or a combination thereof.

7. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 6, wherein the substitution is asparagine-20 to aspartic acid, cysteine 98 to serine, or a combination thereof.

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8. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 6, further comprising substitution of [cysteine-98] aspartic acid-45, [or] lysine-157, or a combination thereof.

9. (Amended) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 8, wherein the substitution is [cysteine 98 to serine] aspartic acid-45 to asparagine, [or] lysine-157 to glutamic acid, or a combination thereof.

Please add and consider new claims 19-31 as follows.

19. (New) A mutant SPE-A toxin comprising amino acid substitution at residue asparagine-20, leucine-41, leucine-42, aspartic acid-45, cysteine-98, or a combination thereof.

20. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 19, comprising amino acid substitution of residue asparagine 20 to aspartic acid, leucine-41 to alanine, leucine-42 to alanine, aspartic acid-45 to asparagine, cysteine-98 to serine, or a combination thereof.

21. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 20, comprising amino acid substitutions asparagine 20 to aspartic acid and cysteine-98 to serine.

22. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 20, comprising amino acid substitutions asparagine 20 to aspartic acid, aspartic acid-45 to asparagine, and cysteine-98 to serine.

23. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 19, further comprising amino acid substitution at residue lysine-157.

24. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 23, comprising amino acid substitutions lysine-157 to glutamate and asparagine 20 to aspartic acid.

25. (New) The mutant SPE-A toxin of claim 19, wherein the mutant has at least one of the following characteristics: the mutant has a decrease in mitogenicity for T-cells, the mutant